

2003 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
Richmond, Virginia
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Commissioner's Message

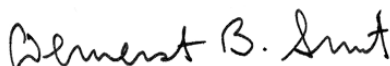
Dear Reader,

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is pleased to present the 2003 edition of **Virginia Traffic Crash Facts**. This document is the result of the cooperative efforts of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia Department of State Police and the Virginia Department of Transportation. It provides a comprehensive view of traffic crashes occurring in Virginia.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow highway safety advocates for their endeavors. We at DMV pledge our continued commitment to safe highways for all citizens through innovative, effective and efficient public service.

I hope you will find this publication to be a comprehensive and useful tool in problem identification, education and community activities. Any comments you may have about the information or format are welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Demerst B. Smit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'S'.

Demerst B. Smit
Commissioner

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Glossary

Alcohol-related crash: Crash where either a driver, bicyclist or pedestrian is listed on the police report as drinking before the crash.

Alcohol-related fatality: Person who dies within 30 days as a result of a traffic crash involving alcohol.

Crash rate: Number of crashes per 100 million vehicle miles, unless otherwise stated.

Death rate per vehicle miles traveled: Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles.

Death rate per drivers: Number of fatalities per 1,000 Virginia licensed drivers.

Fatal crash: Crash which results in one or more fatalities.

Fatality: Person who dies within 30 days as a result of a traffic crash.

Percentage: Based on “known” totals within categories or actions. Does not include “unknown” or “not stated” data.

Personal injury crash: Crash which results in no fatalities but one or more persons are injured.

Property damage crash: Crash which results in no fatalities or injuries, but there is property damage of at least \$1,000.

Reportable traffic crash: Crash on a public highway which involves death, injury or property damage in excess of \$1,000.

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT): Total number of miles traveled on Virginia highways.

NOTE: Percentage on tables within documents are rounded and may not equal 100 percent.

2003 Quick Facts About Virginia

General Facts

- 942 persons were killed, a 3.18 percent increase from 2002
- 78,842 persons were injured, a 0.07 percent decrease from 2002
- 154,848 traffic crashes were reported, a 4.81 percent increase from 2002
- There were 5,257,516 licensed drivers, a 1.45 percent increase from 2002
- There were 76,830,405,995 estimated vehicle miles traveled, a 2.08 percent increase from 2002
- There were 6,833,735 registered vehicles, a 2.62 percent increase from 2002

Alcohol-Related Facts

- 361 persons were killed in alcohol-related crashes, a 3.73 percent decrease from 2002*
- 7,819 persons were injured in alcohol-related crashes, a 7.63 percent decrease from 2002
- 39 teenagers, aged 15-19, were killed in alcohol-related crashes, 4.14 percent of the total (942) traffic fatalities
- 926 teenagers, aged 15-19, were injured in alcohol-related crashes, 1.17 percent of the total (78,842) traffic injuries
- 25,921 persons were tested with blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 percent or greater a 5.18 percent decrease from 2002
- The average BAC of tested drinking drivers was .1367**
- Of those convicted of DUI, 82.96 percent were male and 16.72 percent were female
- 27,046 persons were convicted of DUI, 1.01 percent decrease from 2002

NOTE: *Medical examiner data used in addition to police reports to determine alcohol related status.

**This includes an average of both breath and blood tests.